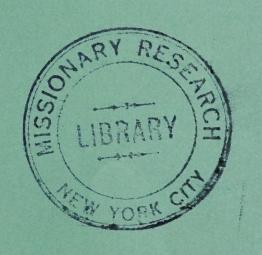
The Diary of
An Interpreter



JALLY PURTH

INTRODUCING

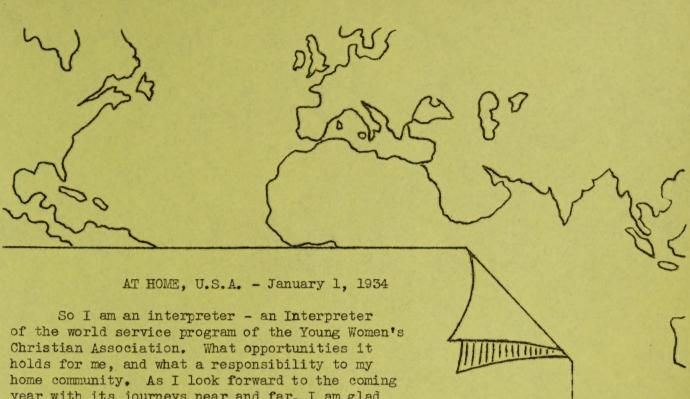
Sally Forth, through scattered pages from her diary, when on tour as a Y.W.C.A. TRAVELER.

Mrs. Forth, much interested in the world program of the Y.W.C.A., gives us some glimpses into the life of the Association in the many countries she has visited.

Mrs. Forth has agreed to become one of the Foreign Division Interpreters, which means that she will share with the Associations in the region where she lives her own enthusiasm for the international program of the Y.W.C.A. and also her store of information gathered on her travels.

These are true stories of happenings in Y.W.C.A.'s in the East, Near East, Europe and South America, with some suggestive bits drawn from world thinking in the United States. They illustrate the points in the advance program for the world service of the Associations of the United States, which are to be found in "Guiding Principles and Program Emphases for the Biennium 1934 - 1936" under Section C. The editors hope that the material will be useful for speech making, for bulletin boards, and for board and club meetings. Other interpreters take note!

prosid sall



home community. As I look forward to the coming year with its journeys near and far, I am glad that other women in their home communities are coming to feel as I do about the responsibility to relate our work to the work done in the world community.

I must grow in "swareness". And that means thinking reading

I must grow in "awareness." And that means thinking, reading, talking with others, in order to understand the underlying principles and philosophy of the whole Association, not merely the foreign program.

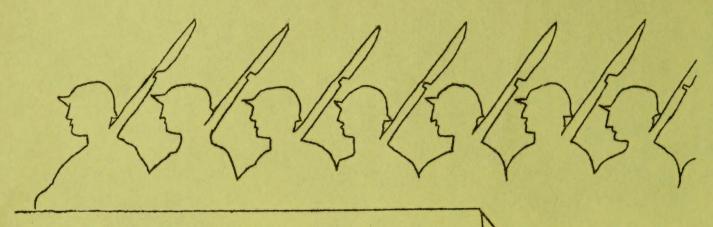
I have been given my portfolio. I am to be one of that group of women whose fundamental interest is the work of the Association among the women of the Orient, of Europe, of South America, of Australia and many others. I must study to understand its relationship to the World's Association and the World Community.

And so I accept my commission as an Interpreter. I go forth on my venture of faith - and I hope it will be a venture which verifies itself."

ON THE HIGH SEAS - January 15, 1934 - bound for distant ports and far horizons!

"When the women are friends, the men will not fight." Some one quoted that old Oriental saying the other day, and I thought, "That just fits what we're trying to do in the World's Y.W.C.A. - that the women of the world may be friends!" And the men----?

I was mulling these thoughts over in the back of my mind when I picked up the March "Fortune" from the reading table. An article called "Arms and the Men," dealing with munitions makers and their ways certainly gives one pause. The axioms for the success of the munitions business are: (1) "When there are wars prolong them." (2) "When there is peace disturb it." It is hard for some of us to believe that any group of men would deliberately foment fear, suspicion and distrust between leaders of governments and then make



money for themselves by selling guns
and munitions to both sides, but that
seems to be the grim truth of the matter.
To agitate for "self-defense" in order
to fatten on the sale of steel plate for
battle cruisers seems diabolical. But
there it is. And the world pays a billion
and a half dollars every year for all this:
If we had that to spend for promoting the arts of peace, education,

travel - well, let the imagination play with that for awhile!

Here we are, women in fifty countries, trying to build friend-

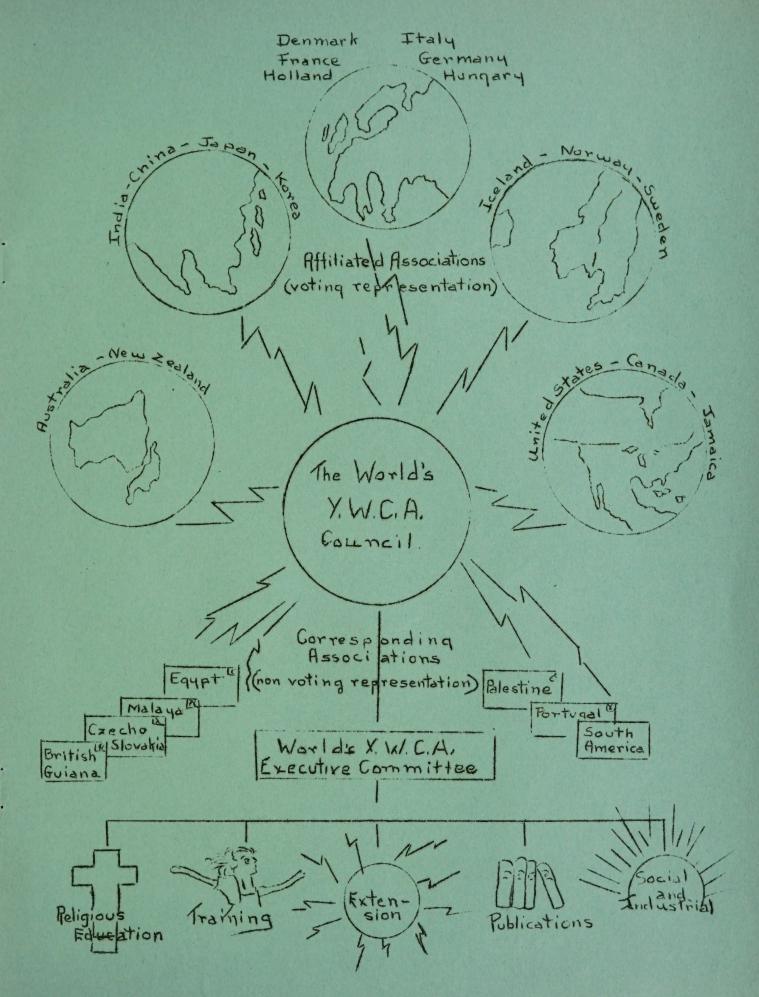
Here we are, women in fifty countries, trying to build friend-ship, understanding, international peace. And there they are, those who undermine, tear down and destroy, for the sake of personal profit! What a world!

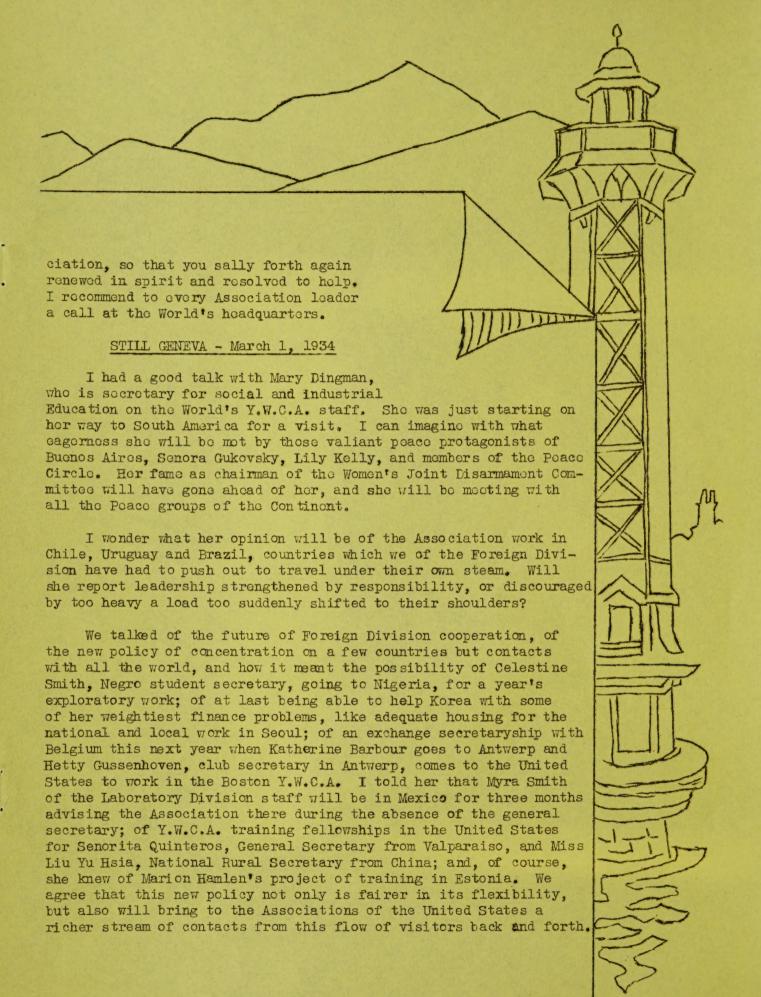
Well - it gives us much to think about, and ought to be a challenge to greater and more positive effort on our part. "When the women are friends - - -?"

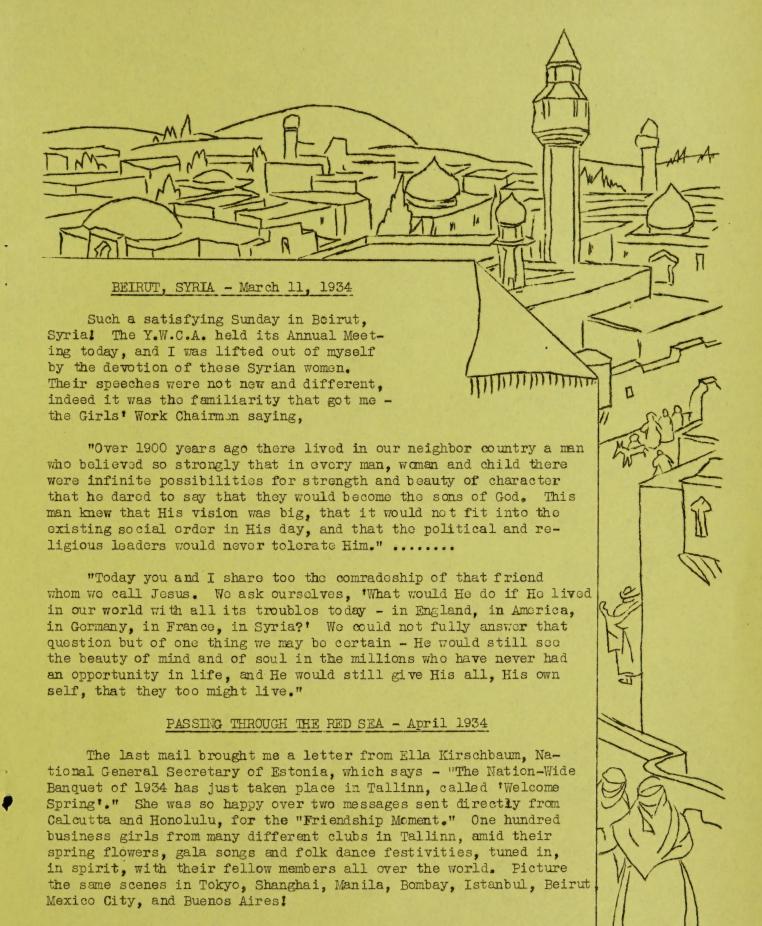
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, February 20, 1934

On the boat coming over I met a college professor who admitted that she had been to Europe and the Near East more than once but had never set foot in Geneva. Maybe she hated to be so commonplace as to be one of the 30,000 Americans who visit Geneva each summer! I don't feel ordinary at all to be one of those who have tarried a moment in Geneva for I have added an experience that only a few have foresight enough to include in their foreign tours, namely, a visit to the headquarters office of the World's Y.W.C.A. The flight of stairs up to the offices is not too great an effort, for once there the lofty windows afford an inspiring view of historic Geneva, and an outlook over the park with its famous monument to the Reformers. The offices are modest in size and furnished with dignity and charm. The furnishings are gifts from many countries and to inscribe one's name in the guest book with women of fifty countries is in itself an exhibitant experience!

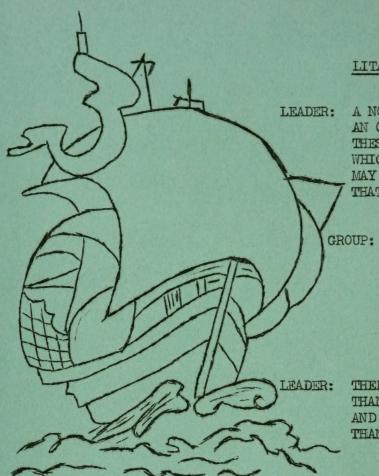
The committee and staff receive you not only with a welcome but with an air of leisure so seldom found in Y.W.C.A. offices. And they put you in touch with women of many countries and with leaders of other international organizations, making you proud of your responsibility to forward the work of the World's Asso-







The messages sent to the United States from other countries, which the Foreign Division was thoughtful enough to send on to me,



LITANY OF GROWTH AND UNDERSTANDING

A NOBLE LIFE, A SIMPLE FAITH,
AN OPEN HEART AND HAND,
THESE ARE THE LOVELY LITANIES
WHICH ALL MEN UNDERSTAND.
MAY THE BEING OF ME HAVE ROOM TO GROW
THAT MY EYES MAY MEET GOD'S EYES AND
KNOW.

FATHER OF ALL NATIONS SHOW US HOW
TO FULFILL THE HOPES OF THOSE WHO
SEEK IN AMERICA AND THE WORLD OVER
GREATER OPPORTUNITIES AND A MORE
ABUNDANT LIFE. HELP US TO ESTABLISH WITH THEM SUCH RELATIONS AS
SHALL CREATE A LARGER LIFE FOR
ALL.

THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO KNOW
THAN I AM ACCUSTOMED TO KNOWING,
AND THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO LOVE
THAN I AM ACCUSTOMED TO LOVING.

THEN FATHER - GRANT US KNOWLEDGE THAT WE NEED

TO SOLVE THE QUESTIONS OF THE MIND

AND LIGHT OUR CANDLES WHILE WE READ

TO KEEP OUR HEARTS FROM GOING BLIND

ENLARGE OUR VISION TO BEHOLD

THE WONDERS THOU HAST WROUGHT OF OLD

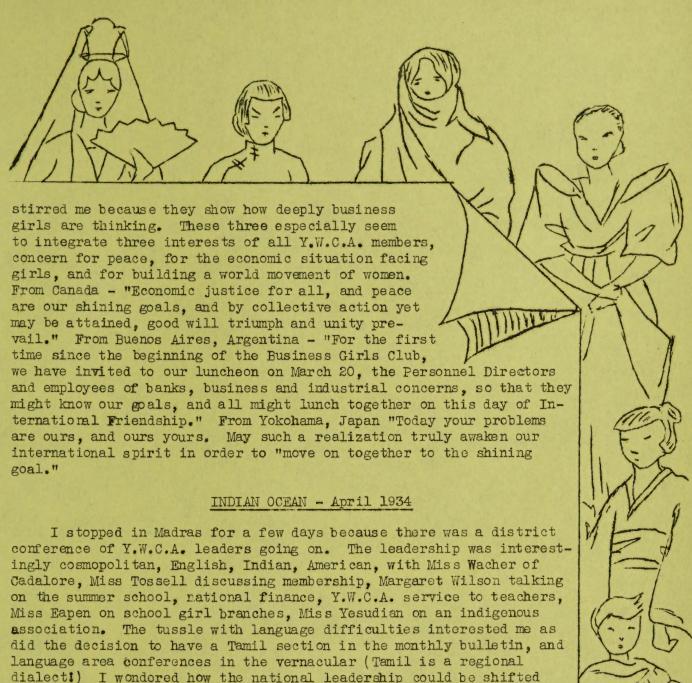
REVEAL THYSELF IN EVERY LAW

AND GILD THE TOWERS OF TRUTH WITH HOLY AWE.

GROUP: JOYOUS LAUNCH OUT ON TRACKLESS SEAS,
FEARLESS FOR UNKNOWN SHORES TO SAIL,
CHANTING A SONG PLEASANT OF EXPLORATION.

AWAY BRAVE SOULS, FURTHER AND FURTHER SAIL. O DARING JOY, BUT SAFE, ARE THEY NOT ALL THE SEAS OF GOD? O FURTHER, FURTHER SAIL.

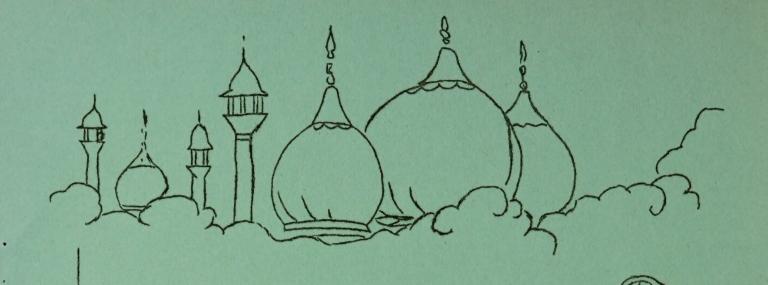
Copied from the program of the Nation-Wide Observance of Business & Professional Women of the Y.W.C.A. of Greenwich, Conn.



dialect!) I wondered how the national leadership could be shifted from language to language!

I heard, too, that for the first time men will join in the social service conference at the Y.W.C.A. conference grounds, at Anandagiri. And I thought how far sighted Y.W.C.A. leaders had been to achieve a center like Anandagiri where training can go on for all kinds of leaders as new needs emerge. This summer's schedule holds an Association conference, two Girl Guide Leaders' conferences, a Girls Work Leaders' conference, a Teachers' Refresher course, and the Social Service conference.

Social needs were certainly uppermost in the minds of these Indian women. They talked of the intelligent direction government



A DEDICATION TO PEACE

"We women are the life-givers, we are the torch bearers, and we must see to it that by the sheer weight of moral pressure of the entire womanhood of the world future wars are made wholly impossible... I feel that the greatest contribution we can make to our country today is the creation within us and around us of that spirit of unity without which no advance in any sphere is possible.

"Let us dedicate ourselves here and now, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, to think not in terms of individuals or communities or provinces, but in terms of India - I go further and say, in terms of the world. If we cultivate our minds to think internationally, we shall be far better nationalists.

"We shall forget then that there are such things as communities, provinces, or even nations, and realize that we are all one in the eternal scheme of life, and that in the welfare of our neighbours lies our own welfare."

Copied from the address of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur to the All India Women's Conference.



authorities were giving to community social service, of the cooperation of business men and of the many voluntary Associations of different kinds. Of course this means a great need for trained personnel. I am glad that Jean Begg, National General Secretary - a New Zealander - is a graduate of the New York School of Social Work and so equipped to be the executive of such a training course.

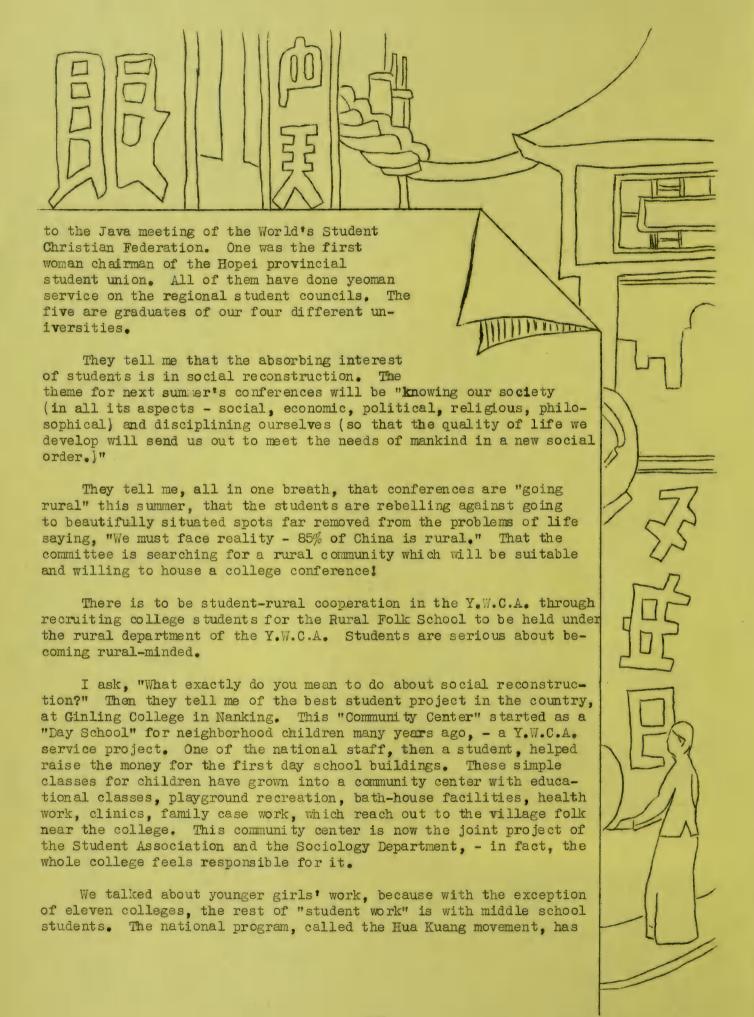
(Mrs. Forth had ten days in Shanghai, China. Here is a description of one very absorbing day.)

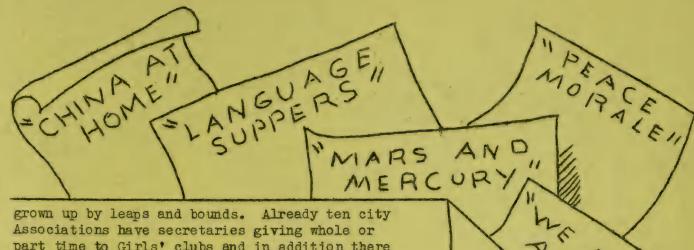
SHANCHAI - May 20, 1934

"Yuen Ming Yuen Road - yes, number 133." Around the corner we race in our rickshaws, and -- Ooooooo! apparently right under the wheels of a flying motor. "Hsiao hsin!", shouts my Chinese companion (Be careful - literally, "have a small heart"). Well, mine is small enough, contracted with terror!

But all the hustle of the street if forgotten as we enter the beautiful headquarters building of the Chinese Y.W.C.A. Today is a special day. I have asked Miss Ting, national general secretary, and Mrs. Huang, national president, and Mrs. Chen, Mrs. Mei and all their fellow board members to let me desert them for a while and know something of the younger leaders in the Association movement. It has been arranged that I have a whole day with the national student and girls' work staff, - the five Chinese student secretaries, Talitha Gerlach, senior student secretary, and the two girls' work secretaries, Bliss Kao and Mildred Owen.

Talitha has told me that they are "growing their own" student secretarial leadership from promising college graduates, after fruitless endeavors to get mature experienced women. As I look around at these charming eager young things, I remember that one has been to Holland representing China at the World Student Christian Federation meeting in her student days, that she has served as student member of the National Committee of the Y.W.C.A., as secretary of the College Women's Federation and president of the University of Shanghai Y.W.C.A. Two of the others were delegates





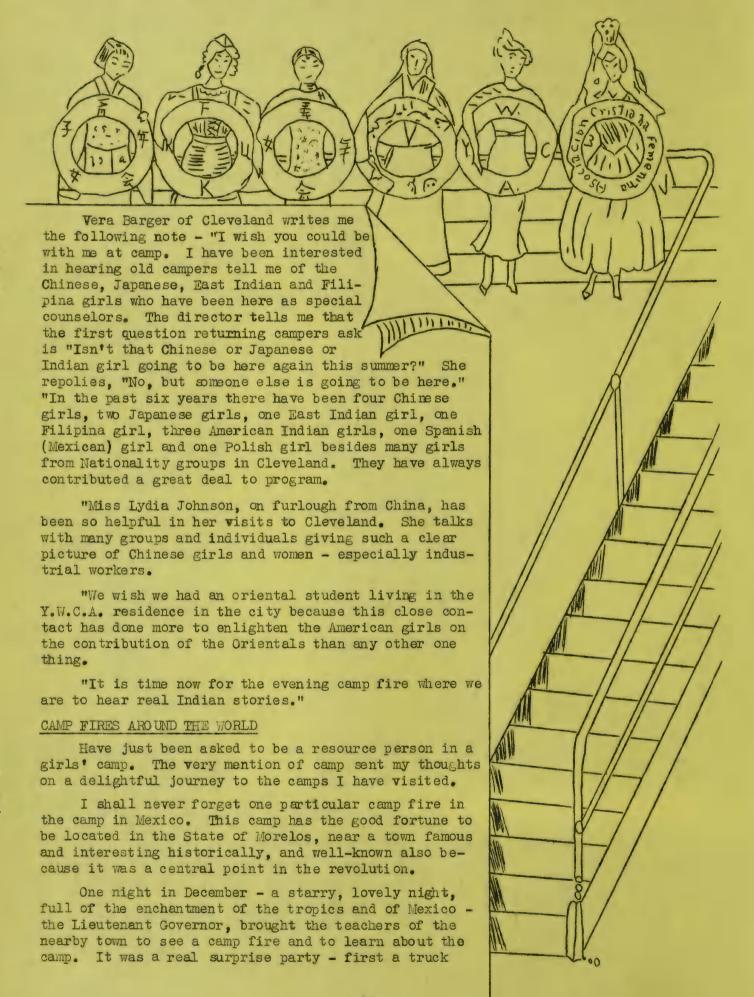
grown up by leaps and bounds. Already ten city Associations have secretaries giving whole or part time to Girls' clubs and in addition there are twenty-four other groups in cities or towns where there is no organized Association which have contact with the National Girls' Work Department. The clubs now number nearly seventy with a membership of over two thousand. There can be no doubt that folk everywhere are becoming increasingly aware of the need in this field.

THE UNITED STATES AGAIN! NEW YORK - August 1934

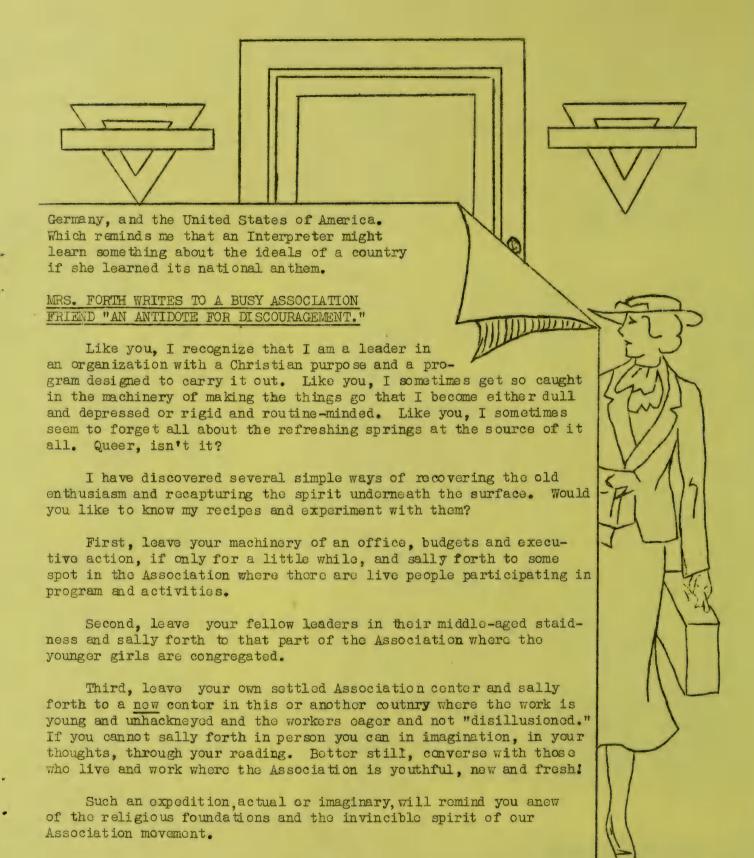
I stopped in New York to report on my travels and absorb my quota of fresh information, because as an Interpreter I must be up-to-the minute. I found the secretaries responsible for national support encouraged over the response of some local Associations to the suggestion that Associations who could not assume responsibility for the support of a foreign secretary take small projects of several hundred dollars or less. For instance, one Association makes it possible to begin a new rural center in China; another supports a piece of leader-ship training. The business girls of another city take the summer camp of the Manila Association for their project. They are keeping the way open for variety in future projects and building up a sound piece of international education and world cooperation.

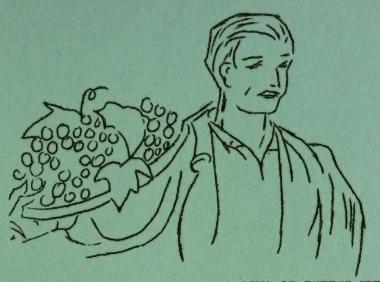
I skimmed through the reports from local Associations on world fellowship and international programs. Such an interesting collection of names, "China at Home," "Beginning a Pilgrimage - Shanghai via Norfolk," "Through the Year with World Fellowship," "Language Suppers," "Adventuring in Mexican Culture," "Around the World in the Twin Cities," "Dollar Dialogue," "My Impressions of the United States by a Foreign Student," "Peace Morale," "Progressive Plan Toward World Peace," "Planetary Minds," "Mars and Mercury," "We Make A Map," "Guide Book to a Pilgrimage."

The Kenmore Branch in Buffalo is making a study of one country at each monthly committee meeting, from such material as Foreign Mail and Background Letters obtained from national headquarters. The Hartford County Association committee has undertaken to get program material on world interests for each department, and also keep a special mailing list of interested women in the county who are not in the League of Nations Association, the Council of International Relations, or any similar organization.



arrived with a huge marimba and four men to play it, then the little lane began to fill with autos and about 120 teachers, men and women, headed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, arrived. The marimba had attracted a fringe of Indians who, wrapped in their colorful zarapas, stood or squatted in the background. First everybody sang the national anthem with the stirring accompaniment of the marimba, as the flag was lowered by two of our girls. Then they asked Miss Ramirez, the Y.W.C.A. President, to repeat all she had told the Lieutenant Governor about the Y.W.C.A. and our camps. - How many times and in what different places has the story of the Y.W.C.A. been told! -Then we were entertained with a program they had prepared in our honor. A woman principal talked about the new educational ideals for women; and to our great delight twenty young teachers in native costumes danced the folk dances and sang the folk songs that belong to the State of Morelos. From now on there will always be a Morelos night in the Mexican camp! One Spanish-speaking reminiscence leads to another and my mind wanders to the camp fires of three camps of the Buenos Aires Association - of the older girls in the hills of Cordoba, when one night around a camp fire under a skyful of stars almost close enough to touch the girls listened to the story of the old Jesuit settlements and churches in that part of Argentina; the camp fires of the younger girls in the hills of the Y.M.C.A. camp in Uruguay; and of the membership camp on one of the loveliest beaches along the sea in Argentina. That was a new and real venture - a camp excursion of the Buenos Aires Association for members of all ages, mothers with young children - even a four months old baby - aunts, business and leisure-time girls, younger girls accompanied by an older member. Their camp fires on the beach were a new experience to many of the group - and to the entire community for there was always a second circle of interested observers. Now my Spanish reminiscences lead to some in Portuguese - still in South America but in a lovely spot in Brazil - a camp in a valley like a bowl all surrounded by mountains - and I remember one night when the girls sang the national anthem of Brazil and then someone suggested singing all the national hymns that they could, and various ones in the group managed to sing the hymns of England, France, Italy





A SONG OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING From "A Flagon of Beauty" By Wilson MacDonald

I sing this song that you may know me better; That I may know you better; And that we two may burn our false idols At the same altar.

I come first to you,
Young, inland mariner on a sea of flowing grapes,
in purple France:
Shaking the carved snow from my hardy shoulders
I come to you.
Long has my race, companioned by strong elements,
Misunderstood the liquid nature of your soul.
And you, with the same blindness as my own,
Have called my silent Northmen cold and passionless.
Let us approach one another, comrade;
Look in my eyes and I will look in yours;
And that fair light which falls when soul greets soul
Will be the first spark to arouse the fires
Which shall consume our idols.

Your people gave me to drink at the rare founts
Of Moliere, Hugo and Gounod.
My people renewed your soul of art
With the clear flow of Shakespeare, Wordsworth and Keats.
A thousand pleasures of the heart and eye
We owe each other.
Upward reaching toward the same white light
Have all our yearnings been.
Only have our idols blinded us through the long, sad years.
Now the way is open:
Consume fires; flame fiercely;
For an idol does not burn readily,
And this can never be a Song of Better Understanding
Until all our false idols are translated into ashes.

Yesterday I said: "I will go kill a German:
I hate Germans: I hate their diet: I hate their aggressiveness.
So I buckled on my sword and sought out a Teuton.
And soon I found one sitting by the roadside,
And his head was bent in an attitude of profound thought.

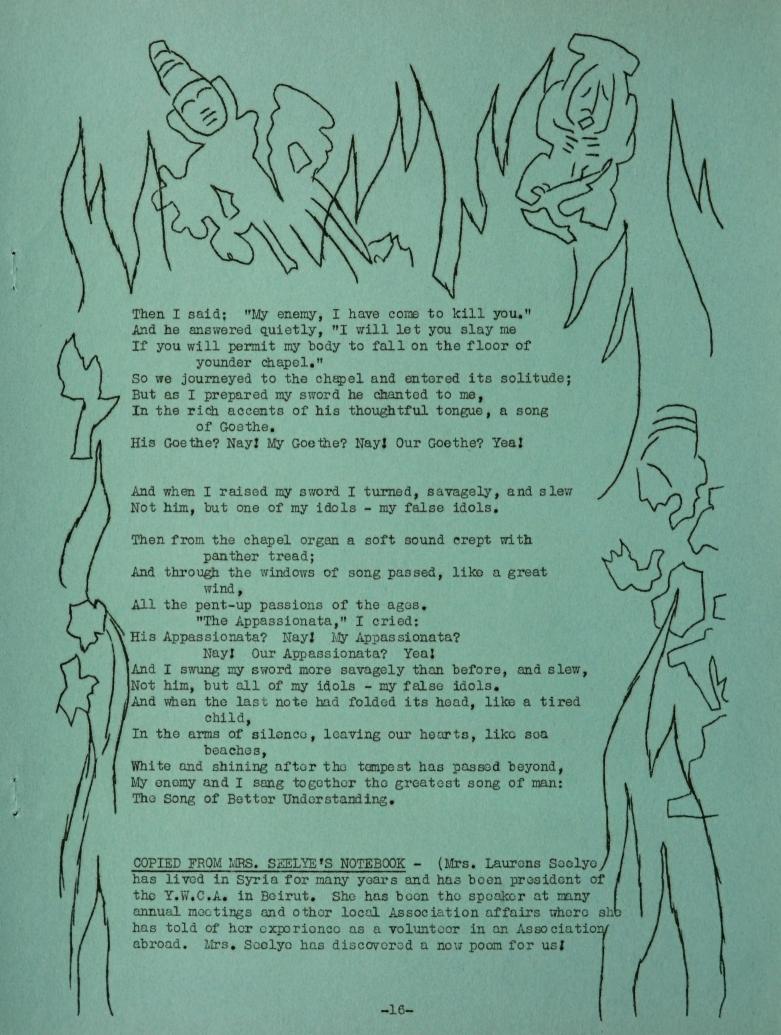


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